

for Social Security. One of the things that the President proposed in his plan was to invest about a fifth of the, quote, trust fund in equities. While that sounds very alluring, I think it is a very dangerous thing, because as Chairman Greenspan pointed out, you need to create a firewall between Social Security money and political forces in Washington.

Mr. COBURN. That is exactly what we are trying to do. We are trying to say, it is time to be honest, it is time to be straight, it is time to get the hands off the Social Security money that is there and start working on a solvable solution for it, but not use it to expand the government and compound the problem associated with Social Security for the future. Remember, in 2013 we are going to be coming back, somebody is going to be coming back—I am not—to the American public and if we have not done our job in this Congress about walling off the Social Security money, we are going to be asking people to cough up a ton more money, regardless of what the economic conditions are. We are going to have to do it to meet the commitments to the seniors that are out there at that time. So we have to start. We have to start today. We have to start this year, this session of this Congress and not let anybody steal the first penny from Social Security for any program.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. The gentleman just brought up education. As he well knows over the last 2 years we have had the opportunity to go to 17 different States and take a look at the Department of Education, 760 education programs, 39 different agencies. For every dollar we spend on education, 30 to 35 cents of it stays in Washington, never gets to a child, never gets to a classroom, never gets to the local level where a parent, a school board, a teacher can say, "Let's spend this money in this way to help our kids achieve academic excellence, to get them to be able to do reading and writing and math." The problem is not that we do not have enough money here in Washington for education. The problem is that we are keeping too much of that money here in Washington. We debated a bill today that just said we are going to give some level of flexibility to local school boards, to State governments, to take this money to get rid of red tape, to get rid of the abuse and to make this system more efficient so that rather than throwing more dollars into an inefficient system, let us make the system efficient so we can get 95 cents of every dollar into the classroom rather than the current 65 to 70 cents.

Mr. COBURN. Let me just summarize. We have about 30 seconds left. A surplus is a surplus is a surplus if it reduces the debt, reduces the debt, reduces the debt. We need to not allow

anyone to spend the first dollar of Social Security on anything other than Social Security. I hope the American public can understand what we are trying to do here is to get truth-in-government back in terms of the budgeting process, so that we can start the process of saving Social Security. We will never start that process until we make the firewall and get our hands off the money that is coming in today.

Does the gentleman from South Carolina have any closing comments?

Mr. SANFORD. No, but I will see the gentleman back on the floor tomorrow morning.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I thank the gentleman for taking the time to do this and look forward to continuing this dialogue.

Mr. COBURN. I appreciate the gentleman's help.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CAPPS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of family illness.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of surgery.

Mr. SHERMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of illness.

Mr. MINGE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of illness.

Mr. BILBRAY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. NORTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHIMKUS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCINNIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. WILSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and on March 11.

Mr. FOSSELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEMINT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 882. An act to nullify any reservation of funds during fiscal year 1999 for guaranteed loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for qualified beginning farmers or ranchers, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 11, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of December 17, 1998]

A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting list of reports pursuant to clause 2, rule III of the Rules of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Rule III, clause 2, of the Rules of the House. (H. Doc. No. 105-330); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

[Omitted from the Record of January 6, 1999]

A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting list of reports pursuant to clause 2, rule III of the Rules of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Rule III, clause 2, of the Rules of the House. (H. Doc. No. 106-37); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

[Submitted March 10, 1999]

958. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Establishment of Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 1998-99 Marketing Year [Docket No. FV99-982-1 IFR] received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

959. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin; Additional Option for Handler Diversion and Receipt of Diversion Credits [Docket No. FV99-930-1 IFR] received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.